



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,249	03/26/2004	Christopher J. Clements	25307A	1641
22889	7590	07/21/2008	EXAMINER	
OWENS CORNING 2790 COLUMBUS ROAD GRANVILLE, OH 43023				WOLLSCHLAGER, JEFFREY MICHAEL
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/21/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/811,249	CLEMENTS, CHRISTOPHER J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEFFREY WOLLSCHLAGER	1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-12,15,16,21,23,24 and 27-31 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 11,12,15,16,21,23,24 and 27-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment to the claims filed April 4, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 4, 11, 12, and 21 are currently amended. Claims 27-31 are new. Claims 3, 9, 13, 14, 17-20, 22, 25 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24 and 27-31 are pending and under examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutsson et al. (US 5,766,541), which incorporates U.S. Patent 4,569,471 to Ingemannsson et al. by reference, in view of Delvaux et al. (US 6,254,810) and Chiu et al. (US 6,800,364).

Regarding claim 1, Knutsson et al. teach a method for making preforms from glass fiber strands wherein the glass fiber strands are texturized by separation to form a wool type product (col. 3, lines 50-55) prior to entry into the mold through a texturizing gun (Figure 9). The binder, such as a phenolic binder, water as a wetting agent, and glass fibers are fed into the mold (col. 3, lines 36-57), the mold is heated to cure the binder and the glass strands (col. 9, lines 52-67) and the mold are cooled to form the preform (col. 8, lines 25-32). Additionally, U.S. Patent 4,569,471 to Ingemannsson et al., which is incorporated by reference into Knutsson et al. at col. 9, lines 8-12 disclose the texturized wool-like fiber may travel through a hose prior to being fed into the mold ('541: col. 12, lines 8-11; '471: Figure 3, element (50)). Further, Knutsson et al.

disclose the binder preferably comprises about 2% to about 10% by weight of the preform (col. 4, lines 14-19). Knutsson et al. do not expressly disclose the binder is sugar in liquid form or that the sugar is at least partially caramelized.

However, Chiu et al. teach employment of a sucrose solution binder (Abstract; col. 4, lines 30-67) that can replace phenolic binders wherein the preform is heated to a temperature of about 200 °C to 300 °C (i.e. at least partially caramelizes the sugar) to drive off liquid from the binder to convert the sugar to an infusible, insoluble form (col. 5, lines 42-46) and Delvaux et al. (Abstract; col. 3, lines 18-66) teach formation of a strong protective coating for a fabric made of glass fibers wherein the protective coating contains sugar.

Therefore it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to have modified the method of Knutsson et al. and to have employed a sugar solution, heated to at least partially caramelize the sugar, as suggested by Chiu et al. and Delvaux et al. in the method disclosed by Knutsson et al., for the purpose, as suggested by Delvaux et al., of providing an excellent protective cover for the fabric (Abstract) and for the purpose, as suggested by Chiu et al., of replacing the phenolic binder of Knutsson et al. with an environmentally friendly binder (col. 4, lines 31-48).

As to claim 2, the fibers employed by Knutsson et al. are continuous (col. 3, lines 50-58).

As to claim 4, Knutsson et al. disclose feeding the binder and strands simultaneously (col. 8, lines 45-60).

As to claim 5, Knutsson et al. disclose a shape corresponding to a muffler (Figure 2; col. 3, lines 8-22).

As to claim 6, the preform (10) is removed from the mold (22) (Figure 3).

As to claim 8, the mold employed by Knutsson et al. is perforated (col. 4, lines 20-35).

As to claim 10, Knutsson et al. pass air through the perforated preform mold for cooling (col. 8, lines 7-16).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutsson et al. (US 5,766,541), which incorporates U.S. Patent 4,569,471 to Ingemansson et al. by reference, in view of Delvaux et al. (US 6,254,810) and Chiu et al. (US 6,800,364), as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 10 above and further in view of Golden et al. (US 5,317,037).

As to claim 7, the combination teaches the method as set forth above. The combination does not expressly teach the melting point of the sugar. However, Golden et al. provide evidence that sugars known to be suitable as binders, such as sucrose, dextrose, and fructose, have a melting point in the range of 120 °C (248 °F) to 175 °C (347 °F) (col. 2, lines 52-58). The examiner notes that the disclosed melting point of the sugars is well above the lower limit set forth in the claim.

Therefore it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to have employed a sugar such as sucrose, fructose, or dextrose as the sugar binder in the combination set forth above for the purpose of employing readily available and well-known sugars known to be effective as a binders.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutsson et al. (US 5,766,541), which incorporates U.S. Patent 4,569,471 to Ingemansson et al. by reference, in view of Delvaux et al. (US 6,254,810) and Chiu et al. (US 6,800,364), as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 10 above, and further in view of Lewis et al. (US 2003/0087095).

As to claim 31, the combination teaches the method set forth above. The combination does not teach employment of the claimed sugar syrups. However, Lewis et al. teach a method

of employing sugar as a binder wherein they teach that corn syrup and high fructose corn syrup are suitable sugar based binders and suggest their equivalence to sucrose (paragraph [0008]).

Therefore it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to have modified the method of Knutson et al. and to have employed corn syrup or high fructose corn syrup as the binder since Lewis et al. suggest that they are an equivalent alternative form of sugar suitable for employment as a binder (MPEP 2144.06-2144.07).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24 and 27-30 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 4, 2008 have been fully considered, but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection set forth above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY WOLLSCHLAGER whose telephone number is (571)272-8937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:45 - 4:15, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

July 22, 2008

/Monica A Huson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

